



Photos: Stefan Berg, Kennet Ruona

Research which explains violence and crime

Violence, corruption and institutional care. These are examples of subjects to which the research environment **Criminology Research Network at Lund University** has dedicated almost two decades of work. The environment consists of a well-developed collaboration between researchers from the humanities and social sciences with a shared ambition: to investigate the phenomenon of criminality beyond the media headlines.

Victimhood, crime prevention work and surveillance are some of the important areas the research environment addresses. The network constantly attracts new members – sociologists, lawyers, historians, ethnologists and researchers in social work.

VICTIMHOOD AND FEAR OF CRIME

Criminologists have found that victimhood is not an objective category. In order to be perceived as a victim of crime, one has to be considered morally respectable. What happens when crimes affect people who, for one reason or another, are not seen as morally respectable? Some studies suggest that making a legal case requires a plaintiff to tell his or her story, and that this story is expected to follow a certain norm. Now further resources are needed to pursue this research which is critical for society, and to continue to communicate its conclusions to the police, victim support organisations and the rest of the judicial system.

POPULAR METHODS OF AVOIDING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Recent studies show that fewer conflicts than ever result in violence and that society is becoming increasingly peaceful. But there are few studies suggesting why this might be. The collective expertise of Lund University's crime researchers offers brilliant potential for developing a sound theory of one of criminology's perhaps most difficult issues: why do people not become violent, even though it may be tempting? How do people manage to avoid becoming victims of crime in their daily lives? This concerns popular methods of crime and violence prevention, a relevant but neglected research field for which the research environment lacks a financial platform.

NEW TECHNOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

Social control through new technology, such as councils' and business use of public camera surveillance (CCTV) and as well as people using their mobile phones, and reporting to the media, have become common. There is a lack of knowledge about whether the new technology actually prevents crime – could this technology also create new opportunities for crime? Within the research environment, there is multi-layered experience of control and surveillance studies. Researchers have analysed how citizens film and subsequently publish a sequence of events, as well as conducting case studies of camera surveillance in public places and studies of new forms of police control. Now the ambition is to conduct studies in greater depth of how new technology interacts with the crime prevention measures of public authorities, companies and organisations.

By following strategically selected groups of agents – shop assistants, security guards, customers and ordinary citizens in crime-prone areas and situations – the project can show whether - and if so, how - new technical advances work from a prevention perspective.

FUNDING NEEDS

Doctoral student: SEK 2 million
Post doc position: SEK 1.5 million
Visiting professorship: SEK 1 million per year
Professorship: SEK 10 million

All donations are welcome, whether large or small. Together we can work for a better world.

CONTACT

Malin Åkerström, +46 (0)46-222 88 41, malin.akerstrom@soc.lu.se

CONTACT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Helena Perhag, +46 (0)46-222 30 68, helena.perhag@rektor.lu.se

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